

Meetings and readouts that i have.

From: "Maka, Mike" </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=933d048140f242cf99a629bacc59869f-maka, mike">
To: "Khalil, Samantha" <samantha.khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
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Meeting between Minister Alghabra and Minister Masland (Nova Scotia Minister of Public Works)

15 February, 2022

- * The Ministers greeted each other, and Minister Alghabra thanked Minister Masland for rearranging her schedule to accommodate this meeting.
- * Minister Alghabra provided a brief overview of the new federal emergency measures, including the 30-day duration period and 7-day window for parliamentary approval. He also outlined the financial component of the measures, which will target the financing of illegal activity through crowdfunding or other platforms.
- * Minister Masland expressed support for the new federal emergency measures, highlighting that two weeks ago Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston implemented emergency measures at the provincial level, including a road blockade ban to proactively address the threat of similar disruptions in the province.
- * She also referenced a previous highway blockade that occurred at the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick border last year to protest Covid-related inter-provincial travel restrictions, and cited the disruptions that this caused to essential services and transport of necessary goods.
- * Minister Alghabra expressed his appreciation for Premier Houston's approach to the current situation and praised the clear stance he has taken since the onset of the convoy protests across the country.
- * Near the end of the meeting, Minister Masland briefly touched on the Chignecto Isthmus Climate Change Adaptation Study, which both Ministers discussed at a meeting last month (in conjunction with New Brunswick). Minister Alghabra mentioned that he has spoken with Minister LeBlanc about the file, signaling that he is equally enthusiastic about working with the provinces to advance a solution.
- * The Ministers ended the meeting with friendly goodbyes and well-wishes.

BC Minister Fleming Feb 14

- MOA: Pacific Highway crossing I know is still closed.
- MRF: We have all support we need right now, I know our emergency management is speaking. Highway still not open, good thing is other POEs in close proximity. Are hearing US produce grocery stores could run short in Metro Van, which could be real issue. BC-ers already hate protestors now, will be even worse if it affects that. Dramatically enhanced fines we are planning to put in place will help, difficulty getting tow truck drivers. MOTI got crane operators in to add concrete barriers, police seem happy.

- MOA: Emergency Act powers will compel tow truck drivers to provide service when you or RCMP ask them to. I heard Premier Horgan was supportive at FMM call this morning, but did he make public comments?
- MRF: I think average Canadian knows government's hand forced, but no one sees as heavy handed because you were patient. It's economic sabotage. I think it's the right thing. Tomorrow, Dr. Henry and Minister Dix will provide substantive update on timeline to ease restrictions now that Omicron and hospitalizations going down. Won't make difference to 5-10% who refuse to get vaccinated though.
- MOA: Tomorrow we are announcing relaxation of some border measures, will have very hopeful signs. We'll lift travel advisory, stop mandatory on-arrival PCR testing, exempt test for short trips, and we'll accept antigen test as pre-departure tests. I know you'll keep in confidence until it's public.

Readout Minister Piwniuk Feb 12 (Manitoba)

Piwniuk

- There are trailers, tractors lining up near the Emerson border but it's not nearly as bad as the situation in Windsor
- The Emerson border is a 24/7 POE, there a lot of livestock that goes through which so far has been allowed to do so
- The protests have so far not been totally disruptive, emergency vehicles are going through the border
- There are still truckers being rerouted to other POEs
- We're trying to reduce any escalation
- What is the federal government planning?

Minister:

- We're adjusting measures
- We're looking at making an announcement on easing testing requirements and adjusting the travel advisory

Piwniuk

- The truckers who are unvaccinated are not being let in to the US, mandates are affecting the industry

Minister:

- The federal mandate will stay in place, trucking industry is not against this
- I've been meeting several trucking organizations/industry associations and they're not demanding that mandates end, they're just talking about how these blockades are affecting their industry
- There is room for adjustment to our measures with regards to travel/testing

Piwniuk

- Yes I agree, it's all about balance
- I'm a proponent of vaccination, I was one of the first in our caucus to get covid, and after recovering I made a private members statement saying it could have been a lot worse had I not gotten vaccinated
- We're continuing our work in Manitoba aside from COVID, reinvesting in infrastructure throughout the province, attracting business here

Minister

- Our work is ongoing as well, we're still working on all issues including investments in infrastructure and reopening the economy
- By the way, we're even seeing private companies have a vaccine mandate because they understand how effective it is
- There will be a point when these mandates are no longer necessary but right now the vaccine mandate is a necessary measure but at the same time we're looking at other ways to ease restrictions i.e. travel/testing

Piwniuk

- Yes, we just want an end game here, this has divided families
- However in every crisis there's opportunity and we've learned a lot from this
- We're lifting mandates here in Manitoba but unlike our AB and SK, we're taking it a lot slower and making sure to respect our healthcare systems
- We have to make sure not to use inflammatory language that could further divide us
- I think the provincial and federal governments need to continue to work together

Minister:

- I completely agree, looking forward to continue working together

Meeting with Mayor Dilkens Feb 11th (Windsor)

No readout

Readout Min. Sawhney Meeting: Feb 9th (Alberta)

- Sawhney says we can't direct RCMP on their operations, we don't want to ensconce ourselves on law enforcement
- This operation is led by Justice (Savage's office)
- She went to media in the first few days and spoke about the issue, made herself clear that we cannot block roads and borders
- Minister asks if we can do joint statement
- Sawhney says maybe however this would seem as if she's endorsing the mandate
- Minister says you don't have to decide now but let us know, the statement could also read as you disagreeing with the mandate but agreeing that the blockages need to end
- We have to set example to protestors and tell them unequivocally that they need to go home
- We wanted to ask if there's anything that the province can do in terms of enticing municipalities/private sector entities to use their equipment, we have the army but that would be last resort
- Sawhney says RCMP is working on it, again we don't want to overbear on their operations/tell them what to do, municipalities have been reached out to
- Sawhney says we need to get industry associations and the public involved, maybe they can write an op-ed or be on site?
- We're working with stakeholders all around to see what our options are
- Minister says we welcome creative ideas, will continue to engage with each other

Readout Minister Mulroney: Feb 9th (Ontario)

The Mulroney's message to us is that they see these as federal trade corridors. They want us to take the lead. Minister Alghabra pushed her on this and said that this would need to be a formal ask. They have said they don't have the ability to do more from MTO. They agreed to work with our department to see if there is anything else that can be done. Overall I would say the tone was difficult and they were trying to put this on us.

Minister Sawhney Meeting Feb 5th (Alberta)

No readout